

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please delete the originally filed abstract and replace with the following abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention is directed to a graphite crucible suitable for producing optical fluoride crystals having increased far-ultraviolet transmission. The graphite crucibles according to the invention have a permeability greater than  $4\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$  when measured according to DIN Standard 51935. The crucible can be used in processes for growing monocrystals of alkali and alkaline-earth metal fluorides.